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ABSTRACT

The newly-constructed Julia Ideson building, central library public service programs, branch and extension services, support services, and the Houston public library board are described in this review of the Houston public library's activities in 1979. The report also includes statistical comparisons of the number of borrowers, materials circulated, reference questions, books in stock, book budgets, and total budgets between 1970 and 1979, with additional statistics given for the years 1978 and 1979. A Houston public library directory and a map of the Houston public library system are provided. (FM)

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HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARIES ANNUAL REPORT 1979

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Mrs. Moses LeRoy - Secretary
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Mrs. David Knapp
Mrs. Deborah D. Pannill
Mrs. Daisy Hannah Procter
Judge Woodrow Seals
Billy R. Reagan - Ex officio
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Johnny Goyen

CONTROLLER
Kathryn J. Whitmire

TREASURER
George L. Nichols

administrative council

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Ann Hornak	Assistant Director
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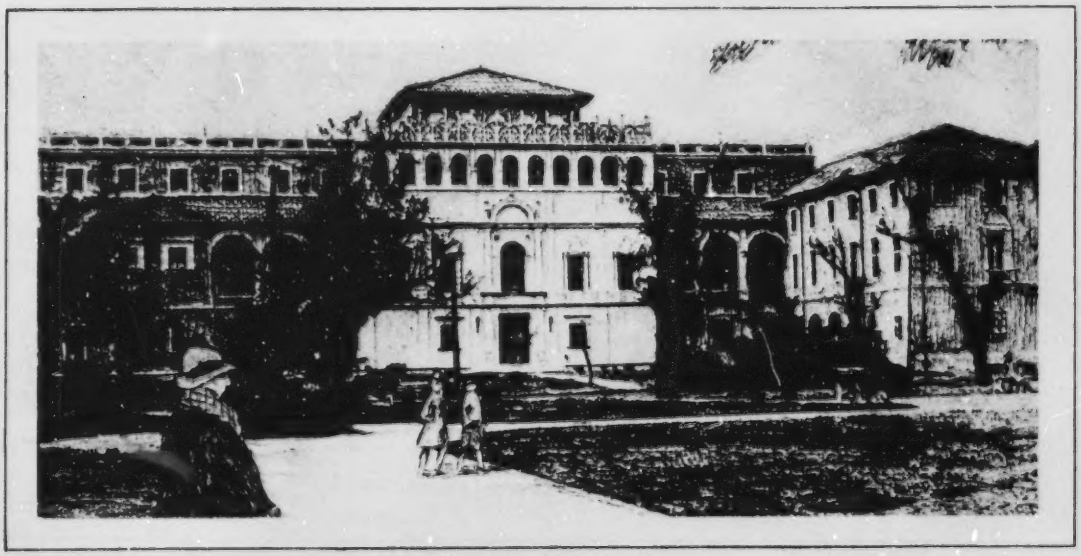
Ruby Weaver	Chief, Central Library
Jay Clark	Chief, Technical Services
Amy Mollberg	Coordinator, Houston Area Library System
Michael Benedict	Coordinator, Materials Selection
Ann Landtroop	Coordinator, Special Projects
Jim Mayfield	Administrative Assistant
Beulah Findley	Business Manager
Edna Hickman	Personnel Officer
Ernest Carswell	Manager, Buildings and Grounds



THE HIGHLIGHT OF 1979

julia ideson building

Harris Masterson, Chairman of the Building Committee, described the library as "a palatial home of dreams" at the opening and dedication of the Julia Ideson Building on October 18, 1926. On November 4, 1979, the reopening and rededication of the Julia Ideson Building was held and Mr. Masterson would have been pleased to see how this "palatial home of dreams" was rehabilitated and restored in great part to its original beauty.

Although the renovation of the building was begun in 1977, the real anticipation of the completion of the project began early in 1979. The activities of the whole year seemed to center around the Julia Ideson Building, including the move of materials, the celebration of the opening with a Library Gala, and the rededication ceremony and open house.

This handsome building, designated as a historical landmark by the National Register of Historical Places, houses the Metropolitan Archives, the Special Collections, the Texas and Local History Collections and provides numerous meeting rooms, a reception court and exhibit facilities. The building is essentially a historical reference center and a meeting facility.

The $3.4 million renovation was made possible by a $3.268 million grant under the Public Works Employment Act. The building was brought up to the code standards and the original architectural feeling was reestablished by bringing the building back as far as reasonably possible. In areas where new functions were added there was no attempt to fake restoration, but rather to follow through the design with similar materials and colors.

The beginning of the year saw the project far enough along to completion to make plans for a fund-raising event to be held in the building prior to its opening. A reopening Gala was planned under the auspices of the Library Board and the Friends of the Houston Public Library. Over 700 Houstonians attended the February 9 Gala and the $52,400 raised by this highly successful social function was used to match the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant to the library. The Gala Committee, composed of Mrs. Ford Hubbard, Jr., Mrs. David H. Knapp, Mrs. Renvia McCollum, Mrs. Jerald David Mize, Mrs. S. I. Morris and Mrs. Frank A. Dixon, Jr. was credited with planning and executing one of the outstanding parties of the year as well as raising substantial funds for the library.

Later in the year the furniture and materials were moved into the building. Most of the original furniture was refinished and placed in its original setting. The move from the new central building was made in October and all of the departments were ready for service on November 5. The Texas and Local History Department, located on the second floor of the Julia Ideson Building, services the Archives as well. The archival material was placed in the closed stacks. The Special Collections Department, located in three areas, services the adult materials from the Special Collections Room on the third floor and the juvenile special collections from the Norma Meldrum Room and the Harriet Dickson Reynolds Room on the first floor.

The rededication ceremonies were held on Sunday afternoon, November 4, 1979, in front of the Julia Ideson Building. The program, with President of the Library Board, Dr. Chas. F. Jones, officiating, was brief but effective. Mayor Jim McConn accepted the building for the citizens of Houston; and, after a dedicatory prayer by Judge Woodrow Seals, the ribbons were cut and guided tours began. Nostalgic comments were heard from the many Houstonians touring the building.

A handsome brochure "Lyceum to Landmark, the Julia Ideson Building of the Houston Public Library" was prepared as a commemorative piece for the opening by the School of Architecture, Rice University. It was funded by the Friends of the Houston Public Library and by a grant from the Cultural Arts Council of Houston. The piece is a brief account of the architectural development of the Julia Ideson Building and recognizes it as a landmark of exceptional civic value. Further attesting to its architectural importance, the Texas Institute of Architects recognized S. I. Morris Architects with a special award for the rehabilitation of the building.

CENTRAL LIBRARY PUBLIC SERVICE

learning library program

The Central Library continued to be the major reference center as indicated by the increase over 1978 of 157,821 reference questions asked. Such major program offerings as the Learning Library Program had an impact on the use of the library including reference service. The Learning Library Program of the Houston Public Library, a three-year plan (July 1978 - December 1981) including a six-month planning period, was funded by a grant of $346,489 by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program presents a broad-based formal learning opportunity appealing to all ages and social groups of Houston. It is centered in the Central Library but extends to branches which serve four different types of neighborhoods, the Mexican-American, the Black, the middle-class White and the multiethnic. All the programs and activities, planned to increase awareness of the depth and richness of these cultures, were designed so all reading and activities address topics relating to the multiethnic communities and how they interact in Houston. The project focused on people and institutions which have shaped Houston.

The first topic in the series of programs was on the news media in Houston, entitled "Telling the News about Houston." The subjects for the February and March talks included such titles as "How the Media Cover Minorities," "Conversaciones," Minorities in the Media," "The Power of the Press" and "Talking Back to the Press." To complement these talks a film series, "Hollywood Reports the News," was presented. This series of five feature films was selected by Eric Gerber of the Houston Post and included "Five Star Final," "Deadline U.S.A.," "Between the Lines," "Chicago Deadline" and "Sweet Smell of Success."

The exhibit featured photojournalism in Houston.

The second study series was entitled "Houston Neighborhoods - Barrios de Houston" and featured "Places We Return to - Montrose, Denver Harbor, Sharpstown - The Places Which Gave Shape to Houston." This six-week program on how Houston neighborhoods have started, grown and changed included such topics as "Concepts of Neighborhoods: Living Space for People," "The Structure of Neighborhoods: A Special Place in the City," "A Look at Our First Suburbs" and "Neighborhood Renewal: Coming Full Cycle in the City." The lecturers were experts in the fields of history, city planning and architecture. The Learning Library also sponsored a segment of this series for children. Entitled "Children Look at Neighborhoods/Niños Miran a los Barrios," the project was planned to give children an opportunity to know their neighborhoods a little better. The participants became more aware of the various components of their neighborhoods using an architectural orientation. They attended sessions at the library where they learned to map their neighborhoods and then, armed with cameras, they recorded neighborhoods and then discussed the focus and significance of the sites they photographed. At the conclusion of the program, an exhibit of works by the children who participated in the program was mounted.

In June and July the Mexican theme continued with exhibits, programs and a fiesta. "Artesanos Mexicanos" was an exhibition of folk art from Mexico. Cosponsored by Houston Bellas Artes, funded by Piñata Foods, Inc., and organized by the Craft and Folk Art Museum of Los Angeles, this colorful and exceptional exhibit was introduced to Houston

on June 2 with a gala Fiesta Recepción. The following weeks were filled with programs such as "La Musica en Houston - Seventy Years of Mexican-American Music in Houston" and "The Cuisine of Mexico/El Arte Culinario de Mexico," eight weeks of demonstrations on the art of Mexican food. The children's segment included "Mexican-American Crafts" and "Children in the Kitchen/Niños en la Cocina." The total project was very popular and attendance at all programs was capacity and overflowing.

A more serious subject was studied in September and October. The two-part series "Dying, Death and Grief/Muriendo, Muerte y Pena" was based on the need for better understanding of the way both background and culture prepare a person to cope with death in ways that are unique to individual ethnic experiences. The four areas explored were: Mexican-American, Black, Anglo and multiethnic perceptions. An excellent reading list was prepared to accompany the four lectures. Each lecture was given five times. The parallel lecture series was on "Curing and Culture/ Curando y Cultura." This series also had an accompanying reading list. The third segment was called "Popcorn and Penicillin: Hollywood Goes to the Hospital." This was a film series that examined the values, beliefs, myths and misconceptions of the world of medicine.

The last series of the year was again a very popular subject titled "La Arquitectura: Spanish Influences on Houston Architecture," a month-long program on the traditions and influences of Mexican and Spanish building styles on the architecture of Houston. An exhibition of photographs by Paul Hester, a local photographer, complemented the two lectures on the Spanish architecture in Houston by Peter Papademetriou, Rice University School of Architecture. Free bus tours with trained guides were also included in this program. For those who could not come on the bus tour, a printed tour guide and map of Houston buildings in the Spanish style were developed for individual tours. The other publications for this project were exceptional. Particularly handsome were the brochure of photographs by Paul Hester with background text by Peter Papademetriou and the select reading list "La Arquitectura: Spanish Influences on Houston's Architecture."

Over the year the Learning Library Program presented six different themes of 108 events for adults with the average attendance of 24 patrons per event. These figures do not include the 120 showings of the film "Artesanos Mexicanos" in the lobby of Central Library. The children's activities included three different themes for the 29 events averaging 18 children per event.

the harriet dickson reynolds endowment

The "Harriet Dickson Reynolds: In Celebration of the Child" library program was the first of planned annual series made possible by the former Library Director, Mrs. Harriet Dickson Reynolds, and her husband, Everett. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds funded an endowment for special library activities for children or for adults who work with children. A program of excellence was presented on December 1-3, with Augusta Baker and Ezra Keats providing talks and stories for both children and adults. Mrs. Baker held the first story hour in the Central Children's Room for a large group of six-year and older youngsters. Both Mrs. Baker and Mr. Keats delighted a capacity adult audience with their observations on children and children's literature. Mrs. Baker and Mr. Keats devoted their last two programs to children at two

branches. The response to these programs was so enthusiastic that plans for the second of the series from the Harriet Dickson Reynolds Endowment for Special Library Activities were begun.

foundation center regional reference

A new service was offered to the public through the establishment of a foundation collection. Houston Public Library was designated as a regional collection of the Foundation Center in New York City by the Foundation Center in October 1979. The Center supplies Houston Public Library with copies of all of its publications on private foundations and grant seeking. The collection began with approximately 20 volumes along with microfiche reports on all Texas foundations. More than 100 new titles were added to the basic collection which is housed in the Bibliographic and Information Center.

junior league tours

The Junior League of Houston Central Library tours continued with increasing success. The tours were for junior high school English classes and were expanded to two days a week due to increased requests. The number of docents for these Wednesday and Thursday tours also increased to eight.

BRANCH AND EXTENSION SERVICES

carnegie branch plan - major cooperative project

Final building plans were completed for the construction of the new Carnegie Branch building. This cooperative venture was first initiated by the library through its work with the community. The plan was to develop a community education cultural complex for the Near North Side utilizing Davis Senior High School, Marshall Junior High School and the Carnegie Branch. It grew to include not only the Houston Public Library and the Houston Independent School District but also the Parks and Recreation Department and Houston Community College. The first formal meeting was held in 1975 when it was agreed the community would benefit from a community complex offering comprehensive educational, cultural and social services needed by the community. Planning began in earnest in 1976 when funds became available through city bond funds, HISD bond funds and some Community Development funds. In the following years decisions regarding contractural arrangements, management, space programming and the development of the master plan were made. After the appointment of the architect, preliminary plans indicated a facility approximately three times the size of the present structure was needed. After a study on the feasibility of restoring and enlarging the present building proved costs for this prohibitive, plans were begun for a new building. The final plans were completed late in 1979. The interesting aspect of this project was that the schools are contracting with a public library to offer service. This unique project will offer the community library service for the two schools, space for an Adult Basic Education Center for Houston Community College and public library service to the community as a whole.

alternative education

In close cooperation with Houston Community College, the Houston Public Library offered tutoring for GED tests, English as a second language classes, and Adult Basic Education. There were 20 branch libraries participating in the ABE/GED tutoring, 23 branches holding literacy classes, and five participating in the English as a second

language program. The statistics are but a small way of showing the worth of this service to the community.

reading is fundamental program

RIF was expanded from one branch program in 1978 to five branches in 1979. The five branches were funded with local gift funds from the Friends of the Houston Public Library ($2,000), the Houston Foundation ($750), Harrisburg Rotary Club ($250), Women of Rotary ($250) and Mrs. Gertrude M. Audit ($10). Each of the gift dollars was matched by the RIF program, which allowed enough funds for 1,500 children to participate in the program. Each of these children received free paperback books of their choosing to keep and enjoy as a personal library.

bond elections

In the 1979 Bond Election called in September the library had projects totaling $8 million. Citizens of Houston approved Library bonds for the purchase of a site in the Alief area and the construction of a branch building, the purchase of a site in the Montrose area and the construction of a building, the construction of a branch building in Scenic Woods on a site already purchased, and the construction of a branch building in the Pinemont/Antoine area on a presently owned site.

SUPPORT SERVICES

administration -staff development

A program of staff development planned the previous year was initiated with several staff-planned and staff-taught workshops, such as the ones on publicity and public relations presented for all unit heads and children's librarians. Other in-house training courses were provided, including those for security personnel on emergency situations in the library as well as those for the maintenance staff on interior care of buildings.

Staff also traveled afar to workshops, such as the Literacy Workshop in Colorado, to learn, return and teach fellow staff. In cooperation with the Texas State Library through the Houston Area Library System, several workshops were brought to Houston to address such topics as working with patrons with problems. Examples of other workshops attended by the staff were Database Reference, Cable TV, Friends and Volunteers, Boomerang Management Training, and Women in City and County Government.

Although these are but a few of the training sessions, seminars and workshops attended by the staff, they represent the effort being made by the staff with the support of administration to improve skills and to keep professionally current in fields of expertise.

technical services

Great strides were made in the development of the automated circulation system and the linkage of the catalog and circulation systems. Labeling the volumes in preparation for the system was completed in several areas of Central Library and in Bracewell Branch. The other branches to be incorporated into the system, Jungman, Kendall, and Walter, were on their way to completion. On-line indexes were added to the computer data base including author, title, subject, ISBN number, the ROM catalog bibliographic number and the LC number. The Eclipse 250 computer was installed and activated. It is anticipated the circulation system will be activated in the summer of 1980.

A checkpoint security system was installed in Central Library to protect the collections. Books were prepared to activate the system and turnstiles and gates were located at the front entrance and the Concourse exit. The system, at a cost of $27,000, is expected to prevent a loss of approximately $70,000 worth of materials in the first year.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Technical Services Division increased the total volume of books shipped to public service units for patron use. However, 50,000 fewer books were purchased with tax funds even though the 1979 tax budget reflected a $90,000 increase over the 1978 book budget. The average cost of a book for 1979 was $9.90 as compared to $8.85 for 1978, a 12% increase in net cost.

HOUSTON LIBRARY BOARD

The Houston Library Board launched the Houston Public Library Endowment Enrichment Drive in order to bridge the gap between tax monies and the amount needed to develop and maintain a truly significant collection. The goal was to increase the endowment by $1 million. To help achieve the goal, a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant was sought. The NEH grant was awarded for $200,000 to be matched by the first $600,000 received in the drive. The grant is for a three-year period.

A gift of art was presented to the Board from Transco Companies Inc. A fiber art hanging by Herman Scholtenwas was donated in September.

In recognition for the outstanding work of a Board Member, Mrs. Patricia Hubbard, and a former Board Member, Mrs. Katherine Mize, the Library Board presented resolutions of appreciation to the two ladies at a reception. Mrs. Hubbard and Mrs. Mize were responsible for the successful Library Gala which brought over $52,400 in proceeds for the Library Endowment Fund.

THE FRIENDS OF THE HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Major activities for the Friends included supporting the Library Gala and holding a book sale. The giant book sale was staged on the Central Library Plaza on April 28. There were some 8,000 people who bought more than $11,000-worth of books. Mrs. Mary Rollins was the chairperson of the "Buck-a-Book" sale and was responsible for coordinating and developing it to its outstanding success. The proceeds from the sale were distributed to the branches and the Central Library for the purchase of materials. The Friends made a $10,000 contribution to the library of which $5,000 was to apply to the match of grant funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, $2,000 to support the Reading Is Fundamental Program, $2,000 for the Library Program Fund, and $1,000 for the continuing education of the library staff.

A second annual reception honoring volunteers to the Houston Public Library was held in June. Individuals and organizations who gave generously of their time to the library were recognized for their service.

A DECADE OF GROWTH

1970-1979 statistical comparison

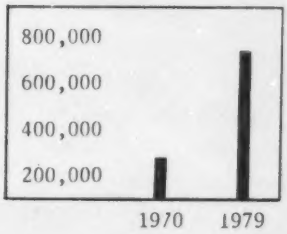
In 1970 library goals were set for the decade. Each of the goals dealt with providing more and better service to the citizens of Houston. A review of the statistics at the close of the decade indicates that the patterns of service followed as predicted, and the comparison of statistics of 1970 to those of 1979 show outstanding growth. The mini-graphs to the right give a clear picture of some of the increases.

Further indications of greater service can be seen in the increase of Interlibrary loan service of 306%; number of books added, 100%; grants received, 1,270%; and added personnel in all categaories, 102%. The average daily circulation was 46% more than in 1970 and the per capita circulation increased 56%.

Although statistics are but one method of interpreting library service, they are a good indication that in the 70's the library well served its public.

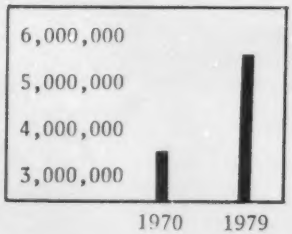
TOTAL BORROWERS

172% Increase



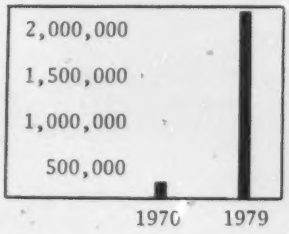
MATERIALS CIRCULATED

57% Increase



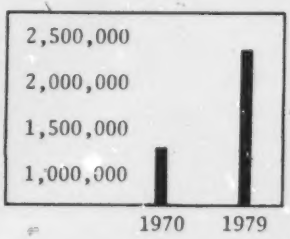
REFERENCE QUESTIONS

345% Increase



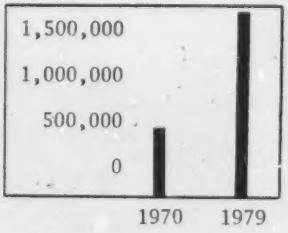
BOOK STOCK

89% Increase



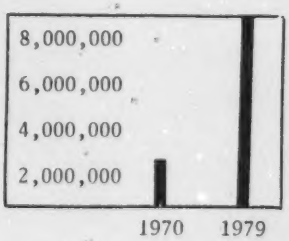
BOOK BUDGET

342% Increase



TOTAL BUDGET

292% Increase



COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1979

	1979	1978
BORROWERS		
Adult	552,793	514,705
Juvenile	234,484	220,173
Total	787,277	734,878
USE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS		
Circulation		
Central Library	771,415	785,318
Branches	4,731,898	4,538,297
Total	5,503,313	5,323,615
Questions Answered		
Central Library	1,440,811	1,282,990
Branches	646,082	557,848
Total	2,086,893	1,840,838
Interlibrary Loans		
Volumes Lent	15,324	12,897
Volumes Borrowed	3,113	2,265
Total Transactions	18,437	15,162
BOOK STOCK		
Added		
Adult	131,708	176,207
Juvenile	61,447	67,668
Total	193,155	243,875
Withdrawn		
Adult	7,154	6,365
Juvenile	9,303	5,355
Total	16,457	11,720
Total Stock		
Adult	1,587,678	1,463,124
Juvenile	695,267	643,123
Total	2,282,945	2,106,247

	1979	1978
Additions by Sources		
Tax Funds	167,074	212,602
Bond Funds	0	3
Gifts and Endowments Funds	1,570	1,561
State Grants	15,792	17,652
Gift Books	8,719	12,057
Government Documents	26,852	20,223
FINANCES		
Budget		
Salaries	$6,503,529	$5,850,000
Materials	1,592,000	1,515,600
All Other Accounts	1,600,416	1,437,400
Total	$9,695,945	$8,803,000
Gifts and Endowment Income		
Endowments	$26,712	$ 18,428
Gifts	64,749	132,844
Total	$91,461	$151,272
Grants		
Library Services & Construction Act	$ 626,544	$ 525,337
Library Systems Act	277,193	376,797
National Endowment for Humanities	109,246	130,517
Total	$1,012,983	$1,032,651
PERSONNEL		
Professional	264	250
Nonprofessional	344	316
Maintenance	58	86
Total	666	652
MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS		
Population 1,232,802		
Average Daily Circulation	16,881	16,330
Days Open	326	326
Per Capita Circulation	4.464	4.318
Per Capita Income	$7.86	$7.14

HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORY

CENTRAL LIBRARY
500 McKinney
224-5441

CLAYTON LIBRARY
(Center for Genealogical Research)
5300 Caroline Street
524-0101

ACRES HOMES BRANCH
8501 West Montgomery Road
448-9841

BRACEWELL BRANCH
10115 Kleckley Drive
941-3130

CARNEGIE BRANCH
1209 Henry Street
227-9177

DIXON BRANCH
8002 Hirsch Road
633-2147

FIFTH WARD BRANCH
4014 Market Street
236-0759

HEIGHTS BRANCH
1302 Heights Boulevard
861-4149

HILLENDAHL BRANCH
2436 Gessner Street
467-9090

JOHNSON BRANCH
3511 Reed Road
733-1983

JUNGMAN BRANCH
5830 Westheimer Road
789-7211

KASHMERE GARDENS BRANCH
5411 Pardee Street
674-8461

KENDALL BRANCH
14330 Memorial Drive
497-3590

LAKEWOOD BRANCH
8815 Feland Street
633-3725

LOUSCAN BRANCH
2510 Willowick Drive
622-6525

MELCHER BRANCH
7200 Keller Street
641-5611

MEYER BRANCH
5005 West Bellfort Street
723-1630

MOODY BRANCH
9525 Irvington Boulevard
697-2745

OAK FOREST BRANCH
1349 West 43rd Street
688-2251

PARK PLACE BRANCH
8145 Park Place Boulevard
645-4183

PLEASANTVILLE BRANCH
1520 Gellhorn Street
676-0693

RING BRANCH
8835 Long Point Road
468-2643

SMITH BRANCH
3624 Scott Street
741-6220

STANAKER BRANCH
611 69th Street
923-8784

TUTTLE BRANCH
702 Kress
675-4656

VINSON BRANCH
3100 West Fuqua Street
433-0356

WALTER BRANCH
7660 Clarewood Drive
771-5797

YOUNG BRANCH
6003 Beekman Road
643-8556

ALLEN PARKWAY VILLAGE
READING & STUDY CENTER
1600 Allen Parkway Village
659-7257, ext. 64

HESTER HOUSE
READING & STUDY CENTER
2020 Solo Street
674-8769

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
READING & STUDY CENTER
2720 Sampson Street
659-4672

RIPLEY HOUSE
READING & STUDY CENTER
4401 Lovejoy Street
923-1568

M. D. ANDERSON
792-7180

BOOKMOBILES
869-5161

BOOKS BY MAIL
869-0318

CHILDREN's CAROUSEL
869-1307

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES
869-9046

HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM